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ANNE RICE'S
THE MUMMY

or Ramses the Damned



THE MUMMY

Or Damses the Damned

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COUSIN ZAKI'S MUMMY FACTORY
IS SURELY ONE OF THE MOST
DISTASTEFUL PLACES IN THE
KNOWN WORLD.

IT DISGUSTS ME COMPLETELY,
THOUGH I'D COME TO THIS PLACE AS
A BOY, LONG BEFORE I HAD
KNOWN THERE WERE REAL
MUMMIES.

"LOOK AT IT THIS WAY,"
ZAKI HAD ONCE ARGUED.
"WE ARE BETTER THAN
THE THIEVES WHO SELL
OUR ANCIENT RULERS
BIT BY BIT TO THE
FOREIGNERS."

WHAT WE SELL
ISN'T SACRED.
IT'S FAKE."

GOOD
OLD
ZAKI.



SAMIR!
SO GOOD TO SEE YOU,
COUSIN! COME HAVE
COFFEE WITH ME!

NOT NOW, ZAKI.
I NEED YOUR
ASSISTANCE.

AH, SO THE
EDUCATED ONE
WHOM ALL RESPECT,
COMES TO ME FOR A
HIDING PLACE?



OF COURSE,
YOU WOULD NOT
BE HERE IF YOU
DID NOT.

I NEED A SAFE
PLACE. SECRET.
FOR A FEW DAYS.
MAYBE LONGER.



I KNOW JUST THE
THING. COME INSIDE
AND TAKE COFFEE
WITH ME.





ONE WHIFF
AND YOU
GET USED TO
THE
SMELL.

YOU'VE BEEN SAYING
THAT FOR DECADES,
AND I'VE NEVER--

HOW ABOUT A
NICE FRESH MUMMY?
STRAIGHT FROM THE
VALLEY OF KINGS.

NAME A
DYNASTY,
AND I GIVE
IT TO YOU!

THE
HIDING PLACE,
COUSIN.

I HAVE SEVERAL
HOUSES VACANT.

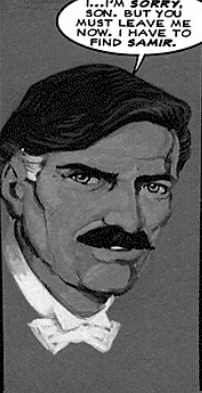
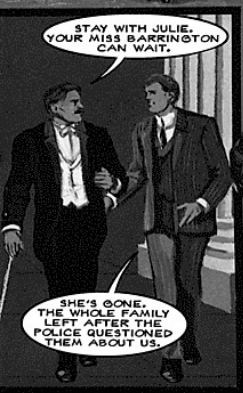
COFFEE FIRST, AND
I SEND YOU OFF WITH
A KEY.

THE MUMMY WHICH
WAS STOLEN --
WAS IT GENUINE,
DO YOU THINK?

WHAT DO YOU
KNOW OF THIS
ROBBERY IN
THE MUSEUM?

CHAPTER SEVEN
The Queen Of The Dead









HAVE HIM CONTACT
ME AT SEVEN THIS
EVENING...AT THE
CAFE CALLED
THE BABYLON IN THE
ARAB QUARTER.

I SHALL TALK
TO NO ONE
BUT HIM.



TELL HIM *THIS*,
ALSO, SHE HAS
KILLED *THREE*
TIMES.

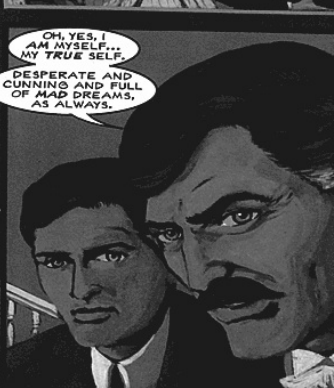
AND SHE WILL
KILL AGAIN.



ALEX, TAKE ME UPSTAIRS.
I HAVE TO REST.



FATHER, TELL ME WHAT'S
THE MATTER. I'VE NEVER
SEEN YOU LIKE *THIS*.
YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF.



OH, YES, I
AM MYSELF...
MY *TRUE* SELF.
DESPERATE AND
CUNNING AND FULL
OF MAD DREAMS,
AS ALWAYS.



AH, SUCH A BAZAAR!
EVERYTHING IS FOR
SALE HERE, BUT I
HAVE NO MONEY!

LAUGHTER, HORRID NOISES...
LOUD, GRATING NOISES...
I TRY TO SHUT OUT WHAT
HURTS, AND STILL HEAR
WHAT I NEED IN ORDER
TO LEARN...

OH, WHY HAD I LEFT
MY HIDEAWAY...AND
LORD RUTHERFORD,
WHO WOULD PROTECT
ME?

I'M TURNING INWARD...
AWAY FROM ALL OF IT...

...BACK INTO THE
DARKNESS, INTO THE
DARK WATER FROM
WHENCE I'D COME...



MISS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



COFFEE...

WHAT ARE THE WORDS
FROM LORD RUTHERFORD'S
TALKING MACHINE..?

I...I SHOULD
LIKE SOME SUGAR
IN MY COFFEE.

I SHOULD LIKE
A BIT OF LEMON
IN MY TEA.



WELL ...
YES, OF COURSE!

WE CAN GO TO
THE BRITISH
CAFE!



PRETTY SMILE HE HAS.
WE SHOULD FIND A
SMALL INN. SURELY
THESE PEOPLE HAVE
INNS.





ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE
GOING TO THE OPERA?
EVERYONE IS CAIRO IS
GOING, OR SO IT SEEMS.



THE BALL AFTERWARDS
IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE
EVENT OF THE SEASON.



THEY HOLD IT
AT SHEPHEARD'S.
MY UNCLE AND I
ARE STAYING THERE-



COME.



COME WITH
ME.



COME.

NOT HERE!
NOT RIGHT HERE!



I
SAY
HERE.







I HEAR... WOMEN
WEEPING... WOMEN
I HAD KNOWN...

PAIN...
PAIN OF THE SOUL...

SAYING MY
NAME -



WHEN HAD ALL
THAT HAPPENED?

WHERE?

DON'T
REMEMBER...



CAN I HELP YOU,
LITTLE LADY?



MODERN TIMES
AWAIT.



RAMSES...



...I DON'T BELIEVE
YOU KILLED THAT
WOMAN.

I DIDN'T...
BUT I AM RESPONSIBLE
FOR HER DEATH.



I NEED YOUR HELP,
BOTH OF YOU. AND
I NEED YOUR...
FORGIVENESS.

IS IT FROM
THE GODS,
SAMIR?

IT'S FROM LORD RUTHERFORD.
HE SAID TO TELL YOU THAT HE
HAS HER.

ARE THEY CALLING
ME TO ACCOUNT?

SIRE, I HAVE A
MESSAGE FOR
YOU.



RAMSES, PLEASE TELL
US WHAT THIS MEANS!



PUT YOUR TRUST IN
US, SIRE. LET US
SHARE YOUR BURDEN.



THE GUILT
YOU CAN NEVER
SHARE...
THE MUMMY OF
THE UNKNOWN
WOMAN IN
THE MUSEUM...



...SHE WAS NOT
UNKNOWN TO ME. THE
GHOST OF JULIUS CAESAR
WOULD HAVE KNOWN HER.

THE SHADE OF
MARC ANTONY
WOULD HAVE
KISSED HER.



I POURED THE
ELIXIR OVER
HER...AND
SHE ROSE!

SHE WALKED...
SHE REACHED OUT
FOR ME...SHE
CALLED MY NAME!



-AND THAT BUILDING **THERE**,
THAT'S WHERE ALL THE **BEST**
PEOPLE STAY -

SHEPHEARD'S-
THE HOTEL, IF YOU
KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

THAT'S WHERE
I'M STAYING.

HOW ABOUT A
LITTLE RIDE IN
MY CAR?

I'M A REAL SAFE
DRIVER. TELL YOU
WHAT -LET'S
GO OUT TO THE
PYRAMIDS!

MOTOR
CAR...?

DRIVE IN
YOUR CAR -
YES!!

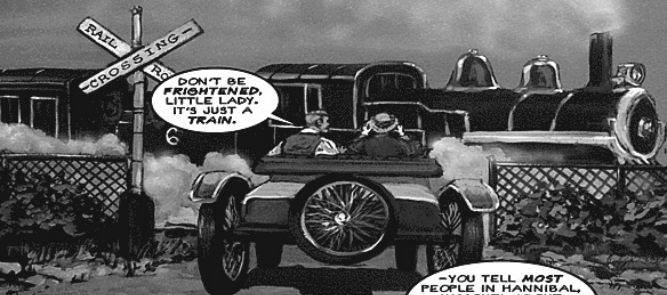


AH, THIS IS BETTER THAN
THE FINEST WINE, BETTER
EVEN THAN MAKING LOVE!

THIS IS TOO THRILLING,
TOO MARVELOUS!

SEE?
YOU PUMP THE PEDALS,
PULL THE STICK, TURN
THE WHEEL.

I ADORE IT!



PRETTY SIGHT, ISN'T IT?
IF THE PEOPLE IN HANNIBAL
DON'T APPRECIATE IT, THAT'S
THEIR TOUGH LUCK.

THEIR
TOUGH
LUCK!

C'MON, LITTLE LADY,
LET'S SEE IT, OKAY?
THE SEVENTH WONDER
OF THE WORLD!

O-KAAAAY!

THAT'S THE
MENA HOUSE.
NOT A BAD
HOTEL.

AH,
LOOK!

WELL,
YOU SURE ARE AN
AFFECTIONATE
LITTLE THING!

WE CAN HAVE
A BITE TO EAT
THERE, IF YOU
LIKE.



I **TRIED** TO FIGHT THEM.
THERE WERE SIMPLY TOO
MANY OF THEM.

THEY TOOK ME
TO JAIL. IT MUST
HAVE BEEN A
HALF AN HOUR
BEFORE I MAN-
AGED TO ESCAPE.



SIRE, YOU **KNEW**
THE ELIXIR COULD
DO SUCH A THING?

I HAD NEVER
BEFORE PUT IT
TO SUCH A TEST.



THEN IT WAS
HUMAN NATURE.
NO MORE AND
NO LESS.



I'VE MADE SO
MANY BLUNDERS
OVER THE CENTURIES.

THIS MAD
CREATURE I'VE
BROUGHT BACK
TO LIFE CANNOT
BE DESTROYED.



SURELY
THERE IS
SOME WAY.

ONCE THE CELLS
ARE SATURATED
WITH THE ELIXIR,
THEY RENEW
THEMSELVES
CONSTANTLY.

NO AGE...NO
DETERIORATION?



"ONE FULL CUP MADE
ME IMMORTAL. I AM
ETERNALLY IN THE
PRIME OF LIFE."

"I DON'T NEED
FOOD, YET I AM
ALWAYS HUNGRY.
I HAVE PERPETUALLY
THE DESIRE TO ...
MAKE LOVE."

AND THIS WOMAN
DID NOT RECEIVE
THE FULL MEASURE?

NO - AND SHE
WAS DAMAGED
TO BEGIN WITH!

THERE MUST
BE SOME WAY
TO HALT THE
PROCESS.

ON THE OTHER
HAND, IF YOU WERE
TO GIVE HER THE
FULL MEASURE -

-THAT'S
MADNESS!

YOU'LL MAKE
THE THING
STRONGER!

LISTEN, BOTH OF YOU.
CLEOPATRA IS ONLY
PART OF THIS TRAGEDY.
LORD RUTHERFORD KNOWS
THE SECRET NOW WITH
CERTAINTY.

IT IS THE ELIXIR ITSELF
THAT IS MORE DANGEROUS
THAN YOU KNOW.

CENTURIES AGO,
I DREAMED I WOULD
USE THE ELIXIR TO
MAKE FOOD AND
DRINK APLENTY
FOR MY PEOPLE.

DO YOU KNOW
WHAT CAME
TO PASS?



"MY PEOPLE COULD NOT DIGEST
THIS IMMORTAL FOOD. IT
STAYED **WHOLE** IN
THEIR INSIDES.
THEY DIED IN
AGONY."



AND WHEN I SOUGHT TO DESTROY IT
ALL, I SAW THE BURNT WHEAT
SPRING TO LIFE ...

...I SAW CARCASSES
STRUGGLE TO RISE.

FINALLY, IT WAS ALL **WEIGHTED**
AND CAST TO THE **BOTTOM** OF
THE SEA, WHERE IT **REMAINS**,
WHOLE AND **INTACT** TO THIS DAY."



SO ...
IF THE SECRET FELL INTO
THE **WRONG** HANDS, **WHOLE**
REGIONS OF THE EARTH
COULD BE RENDERED
IMMORTAL.





THIS SECRET
MUST BE
DESTROYED
UTTERLY!

CAN YOU CONSUME
IT *YOURSELF*, WITH-
OUT HARM COMING
TO YOU?

- I HAVE THE
SECRET. I KNOW
HOW TO MAKE
THE ELIXIR.

FOR NOW, WE
MUST CONCEN-
TRATE ON
CLEOPATRA.

NO, RAMSES...
IT *ISN'T*
CLEOPATRA!



**DON'T
DO IT!**

YOU STILL CARE WHAT
BECOMES OF ME,
JULIE?



YES, I CARE.
YOU'RE ONLY A
MAN WITH A *GOD'S*
SECRET IN YOUR
POSSESSION.

THAT'S JUST *IT*
JULIE--

JULIE,
DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND?

SHE KNEW ME!
SHE CALLED
MY NAME!







JESUS
CHRIST!!



YOU WILL NOT
LOOK AT ME
IN DISGUST!



SKAKK

SO EASY TO
KILL THEM!



BUT LORD RUTHEFORD,
THE MEDICINE...ALMOST
DARK.



THE
MOTOR
CAR.

IT WILL TAKE ME BACK TO WHERE
I'D COME FROM VERY SWIFTLY.



AND NOW IT IS
MINE - ALL ALONE.

NO, I'M SORRY, MILES.
MY FATHER'S NOT HERE.

YES, MILES.
I WILL ...

...IMMEDIATELY.
GOODBYE.

THANK YOU,
ALEX...

IF I DO
NOT RETURN BY
TOMORROW,
POST THESE
LETTERS TO
YOUR MOTHER
AND RANDOLPH.

AND LEAVE
CAIRO AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

...LYING IS ACTUALLY A
VERY UNDERRATED
SOCIAL SKILL.

FATHER-

-I'M **NOT**
LETTING
YOU GO
OUT ALONE!

YOU WILL DO
EXACTLY AS
I'VE TOLD YOU.

QUIET, ALEX.
GIVE ME MY
WALKING STICK.
AND MY CLOAK.

FATHER, FOR
THE LOVE OF-!

IT'S DAMNED COLD
IN THIS CITY AFTER
DARK.



YOU ASKED FOR OUR FORGIVENESS.
YOU ASKED FOR OUR HELP.

NOW I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME.

JULIE, IT IS *SHE*...
BEYOND QUESTION.



THE BODY, YES.
IT WAS *HERS* WITHOUT
DOUBT. BUT THE *BEING*
WHO LIVES NOW?

NO.



IT IS *NOT* THE
SAME WOMAN
YOU ONCE
LOVED.

THAT WOMAN
HAS NO
CONSCIOUSNESS
OF WHAT IS
HAPPENING TO
THIS BODY.



JULIE, SHE
RECOGNIZED
ME!

OUR INTELLECTS - OUR **SOULS** -
DON'T RESIDE SLUMBERING IN
THE FLESH AS OUR BODIES
ROT.

EITHER THEY GO ON TO
HIGHER REALMS, OR
THEY CEASE TO EXIST.

RAMSES,
THE BRAIN IN THE
BODY KNEW YOU.



THE CLEOPATRA
YOU LOVED CEASED
TO EXIST IN THAT
BODY THE DAY
IT DIED.

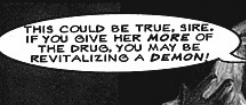


BUT LORD RUTHERFORD
SAYS THAT SHE KNOWS
WHO SHE IS.



SHE KNOWS WHO SHE IS **SUPPOSED**
TO BE ...POSSIBLY SOME MEMORY
ENCODED WITHIN THE CELLS.

BUT THIS THING IS MERELY
A **MONSTROUS TWIN** OF
YOUR LOST LOVE!



THIS COULD BE TRUE, SIRE.
IF YOU GIVE HER **MORE** OF
THE DRUG, YOU MAY BE
REVITALIZING A **DEMON**!



THIS IS BEYOND
MY UNDERSTANDING!
IT IS CLEOPATRA!



RAMSES, MY FATHER HAS BEEN
DEAD ONLY TWO MONTHS.



BUT DO YOU THINK
I'D TAKE THIS ELIXIR
AND RAISE HIM FROM
THE DEAD?



NO!
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T
BE MY FATHER!

THE CONNECTION
HAS BEEN FATALLY
BROKEN!

YOU ARE TRULY IMMORTAL,
MY LOVE ... BUT CLEOPATRA
HAS BEEN DEAD FOR
TWENTY CENTURIES.

SHE IS STILL DEAD.



AND WHAT YOU'VE BROUGHT
BACK TO LIFE IS NOT
CLEOPATRA!

YOUR LOST LOVE
IS NOT THERE!



WHAT RELIGION,
SIRE, HOLDS THAT
THE SOUL REMAINS
IN THE ROTTED
FLESH?



THE THING YOU
RESURRECTED
MUST BE
DESTROYED.





**CELESTE
AIDA!!**